



The Gettysburg Quarterly

Gettysburg Project Eligible for Centennial Challenge Matching Funds



Returning the Union army's battle line on Cemetery Ridge to its 1863 appearance at Gettysburg National Military Park is one of 201 proposals eligible for Centennial Challenge matching funds to celebrate the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service (NPS) in 2016. The project is one of nearly \$370 million of proposals announced by NPS Director Mary Bomar and Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in Yosemite National Park in August.

NPS, in partnership with the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation, would rehabilitate some of the most historically significant land on the Gettysburg battlefield by removing two outdated visitor facilities and parking lots, removing overhead power lines, and re-establishing the historic landscapes at the center of the Union army's battle line of July 1863.

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"Erected by Survivors" - The 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Monument located next to the Cyclorama parking lot.

Facts about the Rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge

- The 43 1/2 acre project area includes historic houses, barns, fences, stone walls, and orchards, as well as more than 70 civil war monuments
- Seven of the monuments near the cyclorama building were moved during construction in the 1960s. This project will place them back in their historic locations where veterans of the battle dedicated them.
- 6,700 feet of overhead utility lines along Taneytown Road will be placed underground as part of the project.
- The visitor center and cyclorama buildings were built between 1931 and 1962.
- The Foundation's \$125 million *Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg* has already raised \$95 million.
- The total project cost is \$9,588,694. The Gettysburg Foundation will provide \$7,000,000. The NPS is requesting \$2,588,694 from Congress.
- For every one dollar of federal investment in the project, the Gettysburg Foundation will match \$2.70.



Intrusive power lines at Devil's Den may be history soon, thanks to a Gettysburg Foundation fundraising effort. Photo courtesy of the Gettysburg Foundation.

Burying Utility Lines on the Southern end of the Field

The Gettysburg Foundation received a challenge grant to fund the burial of overhead power lines in the area around Devil's Den and throughout the southern part of the Gettysburg battlefield. The overall project cost is \$450,000.

John Nau, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is a frequent visitor to Gettysburg and is very interested in battlefield rehabilitation projects. We thank Dr. Gary Gallagher, of the Gettysburg Foundation Museum Advisory Committee, for sparking Mr. Nau's

interest. During a 2006 tour of the battlefield, Superintendent John Latschar discussed with Mr. Nau the fact that recent nonhistoric tree removal work had exposed overhead utility lines to public view. As a result, Mr. Nau has pledged to contribute \$100,000 and to raise another \$100,000, toward the cost of putting approximately one and a quarter miles of overhead power lines underground in the south end of the park. These lines feed three historic farmhouses as well as the Devil's Den comfort station.

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The Gettysburg Foundation's *Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg* would provide \$7 million for the project, which covers 43.5 acres, and includes battle era houses, barns, fences, stone walls, and orchards, as well as commemorative features including more than 70 civil war monuments. Seven of the monuments near the cyclorama building were moved during construction in the 1960s. This project will place them back in their historic locations where veterans of the battle dedicated them.

The project also includes removal of 6,700 feet of intrusive power lines along the historic Taneytown Road corridor from Steinwehr Avenue to the horse trail crossing south of Granite School House lane. The power lines will be placed underground.

"The Centennial Challenge is a critical element in the National Park Centennial Initiative put forward by President Bush and unveiled by Secretary Kempthorne one year ago. The full centennial initiative is a potential \$3 billion investment in our national parks, two-thirds of it a public-private partnership of matching money," Director Bomar said.

The President's fiscal year 2008 budget called for an additional \$100 million a year for 10 years to be dedicated to bolster basic park operations,

Bomar said. Congress has included the first \$100 million for operations in the fiscal year 2008 budget that awaits final passage as this newsletter goes to print.

The Gettysburg Foundation has committed to more than a two for one

match of federal funds for the project. The full list of centennial challenge-eligible projects and programs is available on-line at the National Park Service centennial web site www.nps.gov/2016.

Painting Sections Are Going Up in the New Cyclorama Gallery

Applause broke out in the new Cyclorama painting gallery in early August. Chief Conservator David Olin and his crew successfully hung the first painting section after more than three years of painstaking conservation work. As of now, the crew has hung four of the fourteen painting sections and work continues on attaching the historic painting to new support canvas, and hanging it with a system that stretches it both at the top and the bottom. The job entails hand-stitching each side of each and every painting panel with needle and thread. The Cyclorama painting will open to the public in time for the September 26 – 28, 2008 Grand Opening of the new Museum and Visitor Center. The soft opening of the facility will be in early April 2008 and includes the new feature film, "A New Birth of Freedom," museum galleries, the research room, visitor center, the refreshment saloon, the museum bookstore, the library, collections storage, and offices for both the park and the Gettysburg Foundation. See photos on next page.



Top Photo: One of the painting sections hanging in the new gallery. The section still needs in-painting, joining together with other sections, backing, and stretching.

Bottom Photo: Two conservators hand-stitch a painting section to new support canvas with curved needles.



Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Web-based Reservations Coming This Fall

Ever wanted to reserve a guide just for yourself and your family? It has been difficult and the park, together with the Gettysburg Foundation, are working to make this an effortless task. Starting later this fall, individuals will be able to make advance reservations for licensed battlefield guide tours that begin after January 1, 2008, using the Gettysburg Foundation website, www.gettysburgfoundation.org. Advance tickets for the new feature film, "A New Birth of Freedom," showing in the new park museum and visitor center starting in April, will be available as well.

"The public has come to expect this kind of convenience," said Superintendent John Latschar. "Families do more and more of their vacation planning on a laptop, and we needed to catch up with our high

tech visitors."

Of course, for those who don't go on-line, we'll still have phone reservations and walk up guides and film tickets available.

"This is an exciting time for Gettysburg visitors, the park, and the Foundation. We're taking the Gettysburg experience and adding the level of service and technology that brings it into the 21st century," Bob Wilburn, Gettysburg Foundation President added.



